

# North American Wetlands Conservation Act

## *The U.S. Small Grants Program*

**The North American Wetlands Conservation Act** of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



### Accomplishments

Since 1996, nearly 1,500 partners have been involved in 665 North American Wetlands Conservation Act projects through the U.S. Small Grants program. The program provides grants up to \$75,000 for conservation projects across the country. Partners have matched grant funds nearly four-to-one, significantly multiplying the impact on the ground.

The U.S. Small Grants program encourages grantees new to NAWCA and current partners to carry out smaller-scale, long-term wetlands conservation projects that may not



*Many migratory landbirds, like the Palm Warbler, rely on wetland habitats.* USFWS

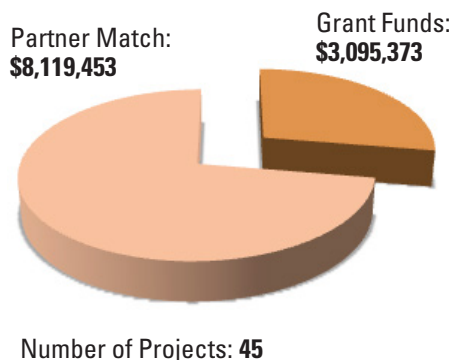


*The North American Wetlands Conservation Act protects nesting habitat for waterfowl like these Cackling Goose goslings.* J. Kelly/USFWS

be competitive in the U.S. Standard Grants program due to their size. The U.S. Small Grants program has become an important catalyst in developing a pool of new grantees and partners for the U.S. Standard Grants.

Grant and matching funds support projects that protect, restore, or enhance wetland and associated upland migratory bird habitats throughout the country. These projects conserve priority migratory bird species in the U.S., including waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds.

### 2014 Grants



### The Process

Applicants submit project proposals to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation. Eligible proposals are presented to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council. The Council, which has been delegated final approval authority by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, then selects the slate of projects to be funded and informs the Commission of its decision. The Division of Bird Habitat Conservation awards and administers the approved grant projects.

### Program Totals since 1996

**Grant Funding:** \$37,277,000

**Match:** \$144,334,000

**Projects:** 665

**U.S. States:** 50

**Acres Affected:** 300,000

# Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

**Honorable Sally Jewell** (*Chair*),

Secretary of the Interior

**Honorable Thad Cochran**, Senator from Mississippi

**Honorable John Dingell**, Representative from Michigan

**Honorable Mark Pryor**, Senator from Arkansas

**Honorable Robert Wittman**, Representative from Virginia

**Honorable Gina McCarthy**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

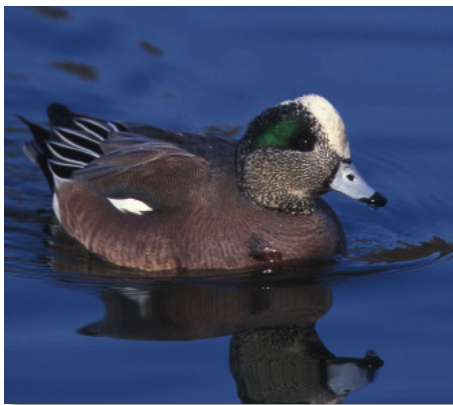
**Honorable Tom Vilsack**, Secretary of Agriculture

**A. Eric Alvarez** (*Secretary*), Chief, Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



A NAWCA small grant is restoring 68 acres along the Canadian River in New Mexico.

Credit: Laiko Losse CC BY 2.0



American Wigeon. Gary Kramer/USFWS

## North American Wetlands Conservation Council

**Wayne MacCallum** (*Chair*), Massachusetts

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

**Terry Steinwand** (*Vice Chair*), North

Dakota Game and Fish Department

**Dan Ashe, Director**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Mary Pope Hutson**, Land Trust Alliance

**David Nomsen**, Pheasants Forever

**Jeff Trandahl**, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

**Keith Ouchley** (*Alternate*), The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana

**Mark Elsbree** (*Ex Officio*), The Conservation Fund

**Glenn Olson** (*Ex Officio*), National Audubon Society

**Sue Milburn-Hopwood** (*Ex Officio*), Canadian Wildlife Service

**Jorge Maksabedian de la Roquette** (*Ex Officio*), SEMARNAT-Dirección General de Vida Silvestre, Mexico

**Cyndi Perry** (*Council Coordinator*), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Project Highlights

In 2014, approved U.S. Small Grants projects will invest more than \$3 million in federal funds in 20 states, including:

- \$75,000 to restore 40 acres of wetlands that have been drained or silted over, and remove invasive trees to enhance nesting habitat on 1,719 acres in Michigan. (Pheasants Forever)

- \$75,000 to complete the restoration of 68 acres of the Canadian River in New Mexico, as well as treat 660 acres for invasive species to open up the river and allow native vegetation to spread. (Canadian River Riparian Restoration Project)

- \$75,000 to conserve 94 acres of high priority wetlands and streams in Massachusetts, creating a continuous mile of protected river corridor, as well as combating invasive plants on 20 acres throughout the floodplain. (Kestrel Land Trust)

- \$75,000 to improve water management infrastructure for 180 acres of wetlands in the Broad River Wildlife Management Area in South Carolina. (Ducks Unlimited)

- \$75,000 to protect 263 acres on the Wild and Scenic Lamprey River, including 3,600 feet of river and stream shoreline and 110 acres of wetlands. (Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire)

- \$40,000 to permanently protect 15 acres of wetlands and associated uplands at the mouth of the Little River in California. (California State Coastal Conservancy)

### History

Over the past 23 years, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has provided funds to protect and restore more than 27 million acres in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The Act was originally passed to support activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an international agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetland and associated upland habitats needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds. The Act has since expanded its scope to include the conservation of wetland-associated migratory birds listed in the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan and the Partners In Flight Conservation Plans.

### More Information

Please visit [www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/Small](http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/Small) or contact Rodecia McKnight, Program Coordinator, (703) 358-2266, [Rodecia\\_McKnight@fws.gov](mailto:Rodecia_McKnight@fws.gov).

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